Message

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To: OCSPP Daily Clips [OCSPP-Daily-Clips@epa.gov]
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FOX Illinois
Officials warn of toxic chemical producing algae
https://foxillinois.com/news/local/officials-warn-of-toxic-chemical-producing-algae
by WICS/WRSP Staff

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS/WRSP) — The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Public Health is warning residents to be cautious around Illinois lakes and rivers throughout the summer.

IEPA and the IDPH say current water conditions make this an ideal time for blue-green algae growth.

While most blue-green algae are harmless, officials say some can produce toxic chemicals that cause sickness or other health effects in people and pets, depending on the amount and type of exposure.

People who plan to recreate in or on Illinois lakes or rivers this summer are advised to avoid contact with water that:

Looks like spilled, green or blue-green paint;
Has surface scums, mats, or films;
Is discolored or has green-colored streaks; or
Has greenish globs suspended in the water below the surface.
People are also advised to keep children and pets out of the water. Do not allow pets to drink from the water and do not allow them to lick their fur after swimming in water containing a blue-green algae bloom. If you or your pet has contact with water you suspect may have a blue-green algae bloom, rinse off with clean, fresh water as soon as possible.

Activities near, but not in or on a lake or river, such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are not affected. With all activities, wash your hands before eating if you have had contact with lake water or shore debris.

If you are concerned you have symptoms that are a result of exposure to algal toxins, contact your health care provider or call the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. If your pet experiences symptoms that may be a result of exposure, contact your veterinarian.

For additional information about harmful algal blooms, please visit:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Harmful Algal Bloom website.

Environmental Working Group
PFAS Nation: Toxic Discharges Suspected From Almost 500 Industrial Facilities Across U.S.

https://www.ewg.org/news-and-analysis/2019/06/pfas-nation-toxic-discharges-suspected-almost-500-industrial-facilities

By Jared Hayes

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

At least 475 industrial facilities across the nation could be discharging the toxic fluorinated compounds known as PFAS into the air and water, according to an EWG analysis of government data.

EWG analyzed two online databases from the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as data from a survey by the state of New York, and identified 475 unique industrial sites that are known to produce or use PFAS, or which are suspected of using PFAS.

Independent scientific research has linked low doses of some PFAS compounds to weakened childhood immunity, cancer, kidney and thyroid disease, and other serious health problems.

EWG'S analysis and interactive map identifies many industrial facilities that could be discharging PFAS. Some have already been confirmed as a source of drinking water contamination, but tap water near other listed facilities may not have been tested.

Our data comes from three sources:

The EPA's Chemical Data Reporting Rule, which lists 28 industrial facilities that have disclosed the production and use of large quantities of PFAS chemicals. These include well-known companies such as Chemours (a spinoff of DuPont), 3M and Dow Corning. These facilities are known to produce or use PFAS chemicals but are not required to disclose through the Toxics Release Inventory whether they are releasing PFAS chemicals into the air or water.

The EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online, or ECHO, from which EWG identified 419 industrial facilities that, based on the type of industry, could be using PFAS in their production process. This includes tanneries, carpet and rug mills, coated-paper-product plants, electroplating facilities, semiconductor factories and wire manufacturers.

A 2017 survey by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, which found 28 facilities in the state that reported past use of PFOA or PFOS – the two most notorious members of the PFAS family of thousands of compounds – including 13 that currently store PFOA and PFOS onsite.

Our count of industrial sites does not include 446 public water systems known to be contaminated with PFAS, more than 100 military installations with known or suspected water contamination identified by the Pentagon, or hundreds of Defense Department fire training stations with known or suspected use of PFAS-based firefighting foam, identified by the Intercept.

Many of the industrial sites identified in our analysis closely correlate with known PFAS contamination sites previously identified and mapped by EWG and Northeastern University.

There are no restrictions currently on industrial PFAS discharges under either the federal Clean Water Act or the federal Clean Air Act. Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.) has introduced a bill to direct EPA to regulate PFAS air emissions as hazardous air pollutants. Other lawmakers plan to introduce legislation to regulate PFAS water discharges as toxic pollutants.

In addition, chemical companies are not currently required to report industrial releases of PFAS through the federal Toxic Release Inventory, or TRI. Of the industrial facilities known or suspected of using PFAS, EWG found that 396 are already reporting other toxic chemical releases through the TRI. Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Reps. Antonio Delgado (D-N.Y.) and Mike Gallagher (R-Wisc.) introduced legislation to require some or all PFAS chemicals to be reported through the TRI.

Firefighting foam is a major source of PFAS water pollution, and both the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization bill include provisions to replace PFAS-based firefighting foams with fluorine-free alternatives.

The reauthorization bill for the Federal Aviation Administration recently allowed civilian airports to use fluorine-free firefighting foam.

Other sources of PFAS contamination include sewage and industrial sludge and everyday products like food packaging and cosmetics.

Chemical Watch
https://chemicalwatch.com/78607/epa-proposes-eight-tsca-significant-new-use-rules
EPA proposes eight TSCA significant new use rules
06/11/19

The US EPA has proposed eight TSCA significant new use rules (Snurs) for substances that were subject to premanufacture notices (PMNs).

The Snurs dictate certain restrictions, such as how a substance may be manufactured or used, how it is released or protective measures that may be required. These are designed to guard against potential risks identified during each new substance's premarket review.

Any manufacturer wishing to use a substance outside of a Snur's parameters must first submit a significant new use notice (Snun), which allows the agency to review it and determine whether it poses an unreasonable risk.

The EPA has proposed over 400 Snurs since August 2018, but has only finalised 13. These, announced in March, were Snurs issued without an accompanying 5(e) consent order. This so-called 'Snur-only' approach had been commonplace under the old TSCA but has become a source of controversy and litigation under the amended law.

A comment period on the latest eight Snurs will be open until 11 July.

Bloomberg Environment
EPA Targeting Toxic Waste Storage Sites for Clean Air Violations
https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epa-targeting-toxic-waste-storage-sites-for-clean-air-violations
Amena H. Saiyid

The EPA plans to police landfills and incinerators where toxic waste is stored and treated for illegal releases of smog-forming pollution, according to the agency's enforcement plans for the next several years.

The Environmental Protection Agency said it will target these sites because the "Agency has found that air emission violations associated with the improper management of hazardous waste remains widespread."

Hazardous wastes stored in drums at landfills contain volatile organic compounds, which react in sunlight to form ground-level ozone.

The EPA has made it a priority to bring significant sources of volatile organic compounds into compliance because these compounds adversely affect air quality, and they may make it more difficult to meet federal ozone standards.

The agency announced its plans to bring more facilities into compliance with environmental laws in its national program guidance for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, which was posted June 10.

Leakages of these emissions from certain vents, equipment, and waste storage or treatment are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"If these wastes are not identified, monitored, and managed properly, they pose potential risk to human health and the environment through releases into the air and threats to on-site workers, first responders, and near-by communities," the EPA said.

The EPA started looking at these sites last year, after inspections revealed that hazardous waste air emissions were causing a problem. In 2018 alone, a third of the 128 hazardous waste facilities inspected by EPA resulted in actions taken to address air emissions.

Enforcement of hazardous waste management sites is a new focus of the agency, Christopher Bryant, a senior regulatory consultant with Washington-based law firm Bergeson & Campbell P.C., told Bloomberg Environment.

Bryant, who specializes in hazardous waste management and regulation, said this focus makes sense because the EPA also has said it wants to prioritize reductions of volatile organic compounds in areas that aren't meeting ozone limits.

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